

The Starfire Messenger



A Free Weekly Newsletter

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Capricorn and the Forces of Materialism

As has been discussed many times in this newsletter over the last few months, the dominant astrological influence of 2020 is the transiting stellium in Capricorn. Constituted of Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter all moving through the sign of Capricorn, this stellium produces a tremendous focus of energies unlike anything seen for some centuries. For average Humanity, this particular emphasis on the earth sign of Capricorn stimulates a profound set of concerns about material security. For accelerated Humanity, it stimulates a profound concern with moral and ethical issues related to right thought, right speech, and right conduct. For

initiated Humanity, this extreme focus in Capricorn connotes the potential to advance even farther on the initiatory path, to shoulder even greater responsibility for the outworking of the Divine Plan on Earth, and thereby to enter into greater connection and cooperation with Hierarchy.

Yet there is another group of beings on planet Earth who are also quite capable of tuning into the Capricornian focus for a completely different set of reasons than those of average, accelerated, and initiated Humanity. These are entities operating in human forms but who yet bear so little psychological resemblance to the rest of humanity as to be literally unrecognizable and incomprehensible by the balanced and sane human mind. Wholly lacking in the psychological factor of compassion, these entities have minds and psyches which are cold and callous beyond imagination. Their capacity for cruelty and for the denigration of the human spirit is utterly inconceivable to a normal person. To them, the grandeur of the eternal spiritual quest means nothing and in fact does not exist. Instead, such considerations are only something at which to scoff, or to disregard completely. They acknowledge the existence of no moral principles, and are constrained by no belief in the notion that other life forms have rights which should be respected and honored. They therefore acknowledge no limits on the degree to which they may invade the lives and bodies of Humanity. In their minds, they own everything.

These are what the Ageless Wisdom tradition refers to as the Forces of Materialism. Although a significant blow was struck against them during World War II, they remain a factor in planetary existence today. Counter to everything spiritual, they constitute a ruthless drive to capture and enslave the human spirit, blocking out the view to the heavens and higher worlds by any means possible. Their objectives are to destroy the meaning of life, to spread dejection, hopelessness, despair, and defeat. They are called the Forces of Materialism because they shamelessly and arrogantly promote the notion that matter is the only and final reality, the only condition which really exists, and the realm from which all motivation

is to spring and in which all gratifications are to be obtained. They concern themselves never with the spirit, instead seeking to do all that they can to deny its existence and to obliterate belief in higher realities from the awareness of Humanity. Religion and spiritual philosophy are of particular displeasure to them, presenting as they do the doors to the higher worlds for many. For this reason, they denigrate spiritual belief systems while concentrating upon and emphasizing material solutions for human challenges, including the amassing of obscene amounts of material wealth and the controlling of the human body by chemical and artificial means.

The transiting stellium in Capricorn in its lower manifestations is like sugar to flies for the Forces of Materialism. As an earth sign ruled by Saturn and as an agent of the First, Third, and Seventh Rays, the energy field of Capricorn in its lower expression is ripe with opportunity to throw emphasis upon the form nature and to detract from interest in all else. The earth element in the Capricorn influence naturally directs attention to the solid state of matter, while the exaggerated Saturn principle brings in the notions of contraction, limitation, constraint, restraints, restrictions, laws, regulations, penalties, imposition of harsh austerities, severe judgement against others, rejection, vilification, and scapegoating of freethinkers. The First Ray untempered connotes raw coercion, while the Third Ray provides focus on matters of economics, and the Seventh Ray untempered provides opportunity for extremes of regimentation, standardization, and forced conformity to centrally-planned norms. Here is a hey-day for forces with an interest in eradicating human mental, social, and physical freedom, and replacing it with automation, surveillance, and compulsory medical treatments.

It should be noted that by stark contrast, excessive regimentation and the denial of mental and physical freedoms plays no part in the Divine Plan for which the Planetary Hierarchy works. As has been made abundantly clear in the teachings of the Ageless Wisdom, the Divine Plan calls for an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and the protection of the right of all

individuals to think for themselves on all matters, so as to come under the impression of their own soul lights and to contribute to the thoughtform of solution for all planetary challenges. This includes all matters of scientific and political deliberations, as well as matters of philosophy and culture.

Further, the Divine Plan under the supervision of Hierarchy calls for the elimination of the fear of death, in tandem with the recognition of the soul, the reality of reincarnation, and the infinite evolutionary path. The Forces of Materialism operate oppositely, preying viciously on the fear of death still tenaciously embraced by the bulk of Humanity. This fear of death is used by the Forces of Materialism as a tool for the manipulation of the masses, cornering them into submission through threats of illness and death, these threats used as cudgels to bludgeon the masses into adopting the compliant attitudes and behaviors sought by the Forces of Materialism. Their objective is the subjection of the human spirit to the limitations they shall impose, while the objective of the Divine Plan is the elevation and freeing of the human spirit to its full divine potential. These two directions could not be more drastically different. The Forces of Materialism pursue involution, while the Lords of Light pursue evolution.

Humanity today is riven by skirmishes over mask-wearing, social distancing, lockdowns, and mandatory vaccinations, complete with name-calling, wild accusations, hitting, punching, shooting, and manhandling. Divisions in the social fabric which were not even extant six months ago now bleed like deep gashes in the skin of the community. The Forces of Materialism could not be more delighted, dancing a little Hitleresque jig at the prospect of family members, social circles, and the human world at large warring with itself. The ruckus provides a perfect cover for their stealth operation: the theft of human autonomy, intellectual freedom, and spiritual seeking. Spiritually-oriented people today are loathe to perceive such dynamics operating in others who appear to be human beings. Such is the love, light, goodwill, compassion, and healing intent of today's seekers, many of whom have dedicated decades of spiritual practice toward

attaining the ideal inner state. The inner spiritual beauty of the spiritually-attuned people of the world is so great that anything other than that makes almost no real impression. The seeker literally sees what he or she wants, but what he or she wants is nothing like what the Forces of Materialism want.

In the struggle for the spirit of Humanity which is in progress today, it is therefore critical that seekers realize there exists a factor in world events which is unlike themselves, operating entirely outside of their values, virtues, and beliefs. Stated bluntly, it is this: there exist forces which masquerade under the camouflage of promoting the public good but which in fact have nothing like the public good in mind. This unsavory realization is one of the hard, cold truths to be learned under the sign of ultra-realistic Capricorn. The truth is that there are forces which would use the energies of any astrological configuration for their own separative purposes, the more so for one that so easily falls to hand for their objectives. Capricorn is in that category; it is easily misused for cruel purposes, and is being so employed today right in front of our faces.

The first stage in combatting the situation is to acknowledge it exists. Rarely is such a recognition required, but it appears that today, this is the case. The matter is simple: those who limit intellectual and scientific inquiry, disallow public debate, implement invasive surveillance measures, force social conformity, promote a constant state of anxiety and trepidation based on the fear of death, advocate mandatory medical management, and trample established national laws protecting civil liberties are in fact enacting the very objectives associated with the Forces of Materialism. That's something on which to reflect now and in the days ahead.

Analysis and Predictions for the Week Ahead

The week of **August 17 – 23** is conditioned by several strong astrological influences, including the **New Moon at 27 degrees Leo** on **Tuesday August 18** and a configuration involving the Sun and Mercury interacting harmoniously with Mars. The week begins with the influence remaining from the **Sunday August 17 encouraging trine between Sun and Mercury in late Leo and Mars in late Aries**, providing physical and mental energy to forge ahead in engaging pursuits. The week closes, however, in the approach to **Mars in Aries square Saturn in Capricorn, exact on Monday August 24**. Hurry up and wait? It might be a relevant phrase.

Monday August 17 brings intensive discussions and an abundance of stimulating ideas as the Sun conjuncts Mercury at 25 Leo. Restless agitation of mind and body are likely also as the Sun stokes the Mercurial themes of desire for variety, mental stimulation, and travel in the immediate environment. Social connections are lively even in the face of current worldwide restrictions on direct personal interaction. A Venus-Uranus sextile is forming, exact tomorrow, adding power to the theme of meaningful and enlivening social contacts. Understandings and cooperations are helped to fall into place under both the Sun-Mercury conjunction and the Venus-Uranus sextile, though Sun-Mercury can also bring excess excitability and fragmenting of attention. Focus helps.

Tuesday August 18 ushers in the exact sextile of Venus and Uranus, helping to replace the severe concerns of last week which took place under the Mars-Pluto square. Today instead, there is a bit of fun, merriment, and creative approach. The New Moon moment changes things up when it takes place at 9:42 pm CDT at 27 degrees Leo, also bringing new life and hope into every circumstance.

Wednesday August 19 offers an opportunity for productivity and mental organization as Mercury enters orderly and detailed Virgo and then makes the trine to Uranus in patient Taurus and the sextile to Venus in comfy Cancer from 8 pm to midnight CDT, thus bringing out the best of the now departing Venus-Uranus sextile. Still, we feel it and benefit at home and within.

Thursday August 20 again provides an interval for progress on mental organization, intellectual projects, and productivity in general as the Moon in brainy Virgo trines both Pluto and Saturn in disciplined Capricorn from 4 pm to 11 pm CDT, thus settling matter and emotions into workable configurations. Again the problems left over from last week's turbulent Mars-Pluto square begin to dissipate and be replaced with more encouraging developments.

Friday August 21 sees the Moon enter Libra, establishing an undramatic interval, but not for long, as tomorrow, the Moon will oppose Mars.

Saturday August 22 marks the appearance of change as the Sun enters Virgo at 10:45 am CDT, and then the Moon in relational Libra gets in a total tiff as it opposes individualistic Mars 10 – 11 pm CDT. Conversations could be strained at this time, as aggression is on high setting. Taking a brisk walk might be better. The Mars-Saturn square exact on Monday August 24 is already starting to affect feelings and situations, as it zeros in on obstacles perceived to be inhibiting the free flow of life and expression in these days of government interference with many sectors of life. Feelings of urgency conflict with closures and unavailability of services due to current worldwide restrictions. The pressure is growing; the likelihood of an outburst from the people increases.

Sunday August 23 sees the Moon enter therapeutic Scorpio, from there to sextile the Sun and Mercury in health-conscious Virgo, setting up vibes which will help find healing solutions where there is the need. Major mental concerns are in the picture, however, for the Mars-Saturn square is

now upon us, exact tomorrow, and therefore already strong. Where immovable obstacles crop up, perhaps it is not best to go just now. Much will stop or be on hold for a time. This will bring to a high point of focus all current perceptions about authority and its misuse.

Compilations and Papers Available Free from Maureen Richmond

Saturn in the Esoteric Astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan

70-page pdf exploring the significance of Saturn, now relevant due to the long-lasting transits in Saturn-ruled Capricorn.

Sirius and the Cosmic Logos

30-page pdf exploring the place of Sirius in the body of a Greater Logos. Revision of the original section from the book *Sirius*. Helpful for those now currently reading *Sirius* by M. Temple Richmond.

Revised Version of Author's Preface to Sirius

26-page pdf introducing the study of Sirius and esoteric philosophy, with new material, and all footnotes placed at the bottom of the pages, making for much greater ease of study.

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